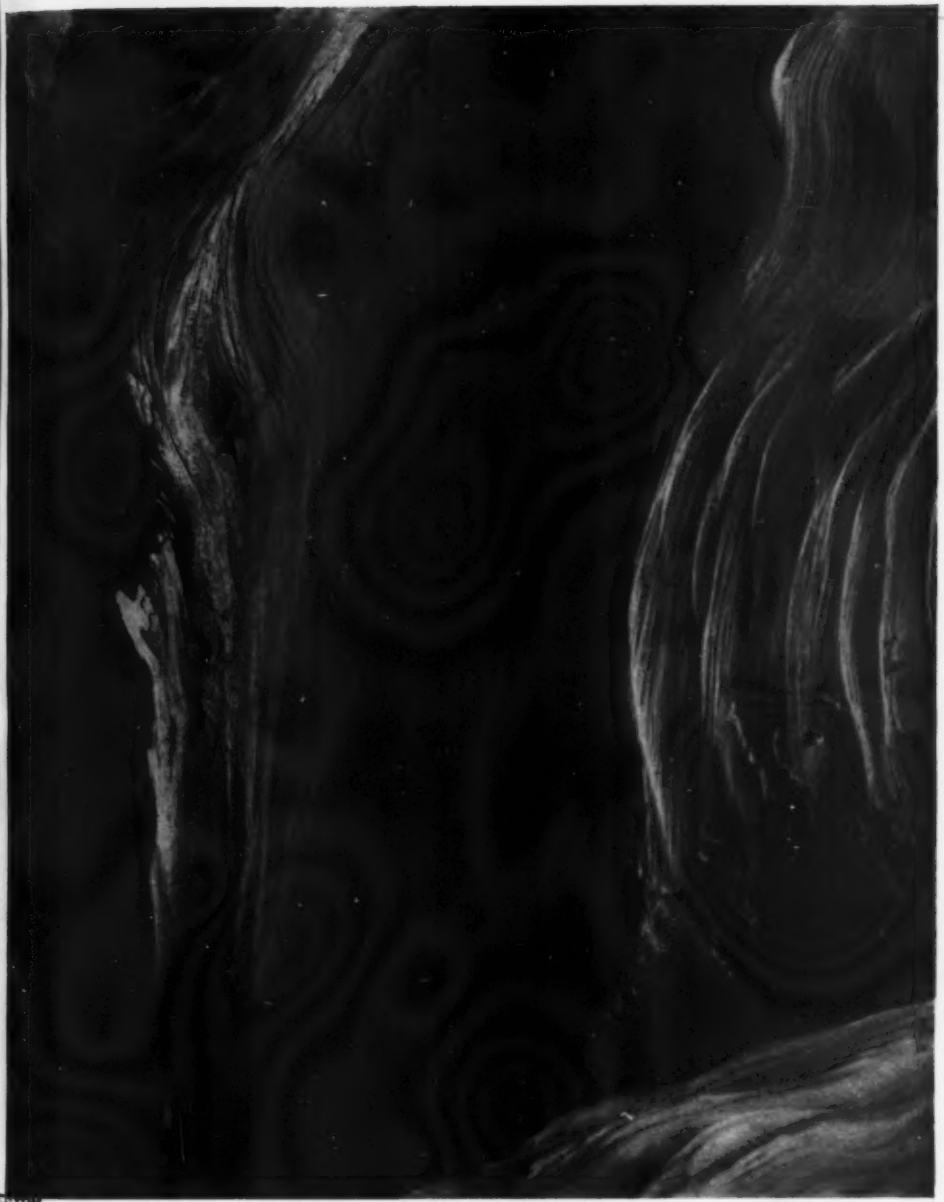

FORESTRY
SD
2
S57
F.34
#3

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

APR 6 1949

March 1949

UNIV. OF MICH.

Miscellany

In recognition of the splendid service she has given the Sierra Club, the Directors have elected Miss Virginia Ferguson, Assistant Secretary since the 'twenties, an Honorary Life Member. We hope that the club will long continue to enjoy her remarkable knowledge of the organization's history and procedures and what that knowledge means to the conducting of increasingly complex club affairs. We hope, too, that she'll have lots of help, and that her load will never again be as staggering as it too often was when she was carrying it alone. Drop in some time and be astonished by her ability to recall how who said or did what when and where it is filed.

Members who run one-man clipping bureaus are performing a real service by sending in articles, or calling attention to them, that relate to important conservation matters. Often the items coming in by this means are the first news of threats or developments about which the club would not otherwise have known so soon or at all. In any event, it is better to get duplicate clippings than to miss an item altogether—and lose a chance to get a thumb in the dike.

Our Special Operative X-1.6 reports that Assemblyman Caldecott reports that letters on Calaveras and Butano run second in his mail only to the controversial gun bill. Our own mail has brought several hundred letters favoring the club's stand, one against, and one asking that the club take a stand. Have you written lately?

Contents

The Snowpack Revives 3
Faint Hearts and a Tramway 3
Northern Annual Dinner 5
The Wilderness Conference 5
Conservation Cossacks 6
Forests and Floods 6
Dams: An Astrophysicist's View . . . 7
Conservation and the 81st Congress . . 9
Forest Camping-fee Idea to Get Test . . 10
Southern California Wild Areas . . . 11
Crisis Spots Compiled 11
Twenty-five Letters: Selected Excerpts about Butano and Calaveras 12

Photo credits. Cedric Wright, front cover—timberline detail [which begs the question, which we can't answer, of whether it is whitebark pine or lodgepole]; Owen Pearce, rear cover—needles and crystals [likewise, with respect to yellow pine or Jeffrey].
Text. By thirty-six members, with a few uncredited notes by the Editor.

THE SIERRA CLUB, founded in 1892, has devoted itself to the study and protection of national scenic resources, particularly those of the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast. Since these resources receive best protection from those who know them well, the club has long conducted educational activities, under the committees listed below, to make them known. Participation is invited in the program to preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

DIRECTORS

Francis P. Farquhar . . . . . *President*
Lewis F. Clark . . . . . *Vice-President*
Richard M. Leonard . . . . . *Secretary*
Robert L. Lipman . . . . . *Treasurer*
Ansel Adams — Weldon F. Heald
Phil S. Bernays — Alex Hildebrand
David R. Brower — Oliver Kehrlein
William E. Colby — Norman B. Livermore, Jr.
Glen Dawson — Charlotte E. Mauk
Bestor Robinson

HONORARY OFFICERS

President . . . . . Joseph N. LeConte
Vice-Presidents
Horace M. Albright — Frederick Law Olmsted
Newton B. Drury — Marion R. Parsons
Randall Henderson — Robert G. Sproul
Joel H. Hildebrand — Walter A. Starr
Walter L. Huber — Ray Lyman Wilbur
Duncan McDuffie — William H. Wright

EDITORIAL BOARD

David R. Brower . . . . . *Chairman, and Editor of the Sierra Club Bulletin*
Harriet T. Parsons . . . . . *Associate Editor*
Ansel Adams — Morgan Harris
John R. Barnard — Weldon F. Heald
Barbara N. Bedayn — Charlotte E. Mauk
Arthur H. Blake — Marion R. Parsons
Joan D. Clark — Vivian Schagen
August Frugé — Blanche Stallings

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Conservation . . . . . Arthur H. Blake
Library . . . . . Alfred E. Weiler
Lodge . . . . . Alex Hildebrand
Membership . . . . . E. W. Cunningham
Mountaineering . . . . . Morgan Harris
Natural Sciences . . . . . Milton Hildebrand
Outing . . . . . Richard M. Leonard
Visual Education . . . . . Kenneth D. Adam
Winter Sports . . . . . Einar Nilsson

Published monthly except August by the Sierra Club, 2061 Center Street, Berkeley 4, California. Annual dues are $6 (first year $12), of which $1 (nonmembers, $2) is for subscription to the *Bulletin*. Entered as second class matter at Post Office, Berkeley, under Act of March 3, 1879. Contributions and changes of address should go to address above; communications on matters of club policy should be addressed to the Secretary, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.

Sierra Club Bulletin

VOLUME 34 MARCH, 1949 NUMBER 3

. . . TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE NATURAL MOUNTAIN SCENE . . .

For the March Record

The Snowpack Revives

Again drawing on the California Coöperative Snow Surveys *Bulletin*, this time the March, 1949, issue, we tabulate herewith how the white world looked on March 1, showing the watersheds from north to south and the per cent of normal snowpack on each:

Sacramento-Pit	80
Feather	75
Yuba to Mokelumne	90
Stanislaus to Kings	85
Kaweah, Kern	90
Los Angeles	----

According to the 70-year average, the maximum depth at Soda Springs should be reached on or about March 23. This note is being written on March 21, at which time the depth there is 128 inches—some two feet below the maximum already reached. What do we do now, Mr. Heald?

[Incidentally, the Editorial Board's Research Division is now looking for someone to undertake another aspect of snow forecasting. We should like him to tell us how to take the April 1 depths in each watershed and forecast the dates on which the principal passes in the Sierra will be open and the unbridged streams will be fordable. He might even include a means of calculating the last date of the summer on which ice axes will be needed.]

Faint Hearts and a Tramway

The proposal to build a tramway up into the one-time Mount San Jacinto Wild Area, now a state park, for the alleged purpose of making its winter-sports possibilities available to those who frequent Palm Springs for its climate and other attractions, has now reached a point where actual construction is imminent.

Surveys have been under way since last year; a major steel company has expressed interest in aiding the construction, despite a continuing and acute national shortage of steel, which is still badly needed for worthy purposes; the Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority has applied to the State Park Commission and been granted permission to construct the cableways, terminal facilities, and public accommodations on Mount San Jacinto; and the necessary legal permission to issue the bonds is being obtained.

Some of our faint-hearted friends are talking as they did in the attempted invasion of the San Gorgonio Primitive Area: The proposal is already too far advanced, they say. It cannot be stopped, so why fight it? Besides, haven't we more conservation battles on now than we can find time to fight or hope to win?

Perhaps only idealists and visionaries will take exception to this point of view. But it does seem as if it would be putting a high price on one's contribution to the cause of conservation to say in effect, "I will give my time only to a sure thing," or "I just play on winning teams." Such conservationists may be better able to relax from day to day, for they will thus free themselves from timely participation in the kind of conservation battles that have been of greatest importance and likewise most demanding. But where, when they are through, is their finest hour? Was it

the hour in which they rode the picture-windowed, hydra-coil-springed, gravity-powered bandwagon—the kind you step down into?

San Jacinto joins the list of uphill fights—uphill because the fight is joined later than it should have been. It is but one more of the proposals that must be fought off for the moral victory if for no more; it is another of the proposals for which approval has been given and the working plans are already off the drawing boards—but for which the first shovelful of earth has not yet been turned.

There are several reasons for trying to stop that shovel, even at this late hour:

1. If San Jacinto is sacrificed, the state of California will lose substantially in its stature as custodian of parklands. State authorities, when in 1930 Forest Service land on San Jacinto was presented to the state, agreed that the area would remain a wilderness. This breech cannot be without implications, for example, in the present attempt to protect the Calaveras forest in a state park.

2. The proposal is based upon misrepresentation. The Winter Park Authority purports to be developing winter sports on San Jacinto. Presumably this means outdoor winter sports, of which skiing is the only one capable of development on the mountain. Skiers, however, consider the development of skiing on San Jacinto to be a gross waste of money. (See *The Skier*, 3:10, quoted in *SCB*, February, 1949, p. 4.)

3. There can be no assurance that the presently planned development, destructive though it is, will not be followed by more development in attempt to rescue the initial investment from its lack of skiing support.

4. Even now there is widespread belief that the state should hold to its original agreement with the Forest Service. Actively advocating preservation are the Izaac Walton League, the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, the Southern California Academy of Sciences, and a multitude of local Southern California conservation organizations. Within the Sierra Club there is strong personal support from members of the Riverside and Southern California chapters. The Wilderness Society and National Parks Association stand ready to help. There is ample cause for other groups to enlist, locally, and nationally. There is a bill now before the State Legislature that would repeal the Winter Park Authority Act; but it should be added that this is a "request" bill, its author, being from another district than the one concerned, having entered it on request and having pointed out that considerable other support would be required if it were to have any chance of success.

Dr. Harold Bradley will represent the Sierra Club before the Assembly committee's hearing on this bill on March 30 in Sacramento.

5. Other state parks are threatened: Under current Assembly Bill 783 (Thompson) the Boyd Bill creating the Authority is amended to read, in Section 1.2, "There are also in the State Park System other areas ideally situated for winter parks and for winter recreational and other facilities." Since this could apply to the present North Grove Calaveras State Park as well as the proposed South Grove State Park, the Burney Falls and Castle Crags state parks, it does seem that the State Park Commission could afford to be less complacent about the San Jacinto matter than they are, for we doubt that they would relish having the parks taken from their control one by one.

6. Conservationists have not yet made themselves heard effectively: At a meeting in Los Angeles last December the Commission took conservationists to task for not stopping the Legislature from passing the bill creating the Authority. Perhaps they forgot that the bill was passed in 1945, the last year of the war, when our volunteer forces had not yet found time to attend meetings in Sacramento or to make an adequate study and report on it. Investigations have since shown, for example, sad neglect of the 1930 agreement between the Forest Service and State authorities by which the entire San Jacinto area, both the federal and state lands in it, was dedicated as a wil-

derness free from artificial means of access.

As things now stand, the first important opportunity to get fully on record in opposition to the tramway will be when the Forest Service, after a 90-day notice, hears the application to construct towers and cableway across the one section of Forest Service Primitive Area which the proposed route will traverse. The Sierra Club, as well as many other organizations, will ask to speak at this hearing. There is hope for its outcome if there can be adequate help.

ARTHUR H. BLAKE

Northern Annual Dinner

May the seventh. Save this date for what has always been one of the most important gatherings of the year. There are innovations this year, too.

As has been traditional, the reunion dinner and dance will follow the directors' meeting. For the second year, the dinner will be held in May, following the organization meeting of the Board—an opportunity to meet the new officers on the day of their election. It is also a grand opportunity for a get-together before the summer outings.

The innovations? For the first time there will be two annual dinners of the Sierra Club—the first, in the spring, is to be in Northern California; the second, in the fall, will be held in Southern California. Both are for members of all the six chapters who can come. But they will be planned for the President of the Sierra Club by the San Francisco Bay and Southern California chapters, respectively.

This year the spring dinner will be held at the Hotel Claremont, in Berkeley. The price is new and different in the right direction (down, that is): $4 per person.

We shall be privileged to have with us Colonel Walter A. Wood, President of the American Alpine Club, who has accepted Francis Farquhar's invitation on behalf of the Sierra Club. The outstanding part of the program for the evening will be Colonel Wood's showing of some motion pictures of the Seward Ice Field Expedition. In addition, there will be other motion pictures, displays of club activities, and dancing until one.

This is the only club-wide announcement. Chapter publications please copy.

Reservations must be sent in to the Sierra Club office, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4, by Wednesday, May 4.

E. H. GRUBB, *Chairman*
Spring Reunion Committee

The Wilderness Conference

A High Sierra Wilderness Conference, called at the request of a director of the High Sierra Packers' Association, and sponsored by the Sierra Club, will be held April 8-9 at the Hotel Claremont in Berkeley. This conference is intended to include those whose interest in the High Sierra Wilderness is commercial (their livelihood depends on its remaining a wilderness), professional (they administer it) or recreational.

A fine program of talks and discussions has been arranged, with well-known and competent people as speakers and discussion chairmen. A preliminary talk will give the background for the discussion of each of the subjects, which are directly connected with primitive areas. There will be morning and afternoon sessions, and on Friday evening at the John Muir School, a program of color slides and motion pictures of the Sierra, to which families and friends of conference participants are invited. Saturday afternoon will end with the reports by the Summary Committee, with the conclusions and recommendations submitted to the conference. The final event will be a dinner at the Hotel Durant, Berkeley, at which Mr. Howard Zahniser, Executive Secretary of The Wilderness Society and Editor of *The Living Wilderness*, will speak on "Wilderness, 1969?"

The daytime sessions will take up the following subjects for discussion: high-country meadows, trails in the high country, education for wilderness travelers, wildlife management affecting wilderness areas, camping in the wilderness, keeping

the wilderness wild, and high-country administration problems. Representatives of the Park and Forest Services, the High Sierra Packers' Association, the Sierra Club, the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, and The Wilderness Society will give the talks and lead the discussions. The breadth of interest of these various groups assures a well-balanced approach to the problems to be discussed. The conclusions reached in such a conference should be of immediate practical value and should aid greatly in the task of those who must plan for the future. H. T. P.

Conservation Cossacks

Not so long ago I heard a man say, "You cannot ride two horses at the same time," when referring to the support needed from the Sierra Club on the two most important current conservation proposals—the acquisition of the Butano Forest and of the South Calaveras Grove with its adjacent sugar pine as State Parks.

This followed another's statement that the South Calaveras Grove acquisition was of the utmost importance, whereas the Butano acquisition was not.

Riding two horses at the same time is a difficult job; the only riders I have seen do it successfully were Cossacks (and even they can do it only if both horses are going in the same direction).

On the other hand I cannot understand how anyone who has a genuine appreciation of the outdoors and has seen the Butano can say its acquisition is less important than that of Calaveras. Both are superb examples of two very different types of forests of superb sequoias, with all the other trees and cover plants regularly associated with the two different species, set in magnificent scenic surroundings. Both projects are also greatly needed in the already overcrowded outdoor recreational picture of this state; the Butano Forest is especially needed for that purpose.

The Sierra Club is not in an easy position. After having always supported the matching-funds principle of the State Park Commission, it now hopes that these two areas may be acquired by special legislation directing outright purchase from State Park funds.

No one has been able to tell us how to raise several million dollars to meet the matching fund requirement before the lumberers' time clock reaches the fateful hour and the saws whir into action to feed the two majestic forests down the assembly line of lumber production.

So if Cossacks we must be, the two horses we must ride successfully to the finish line are named Butano and South Calaveras. If you have not acted yet, read or reread the January *SCB*. Then write at once; it is not yet too late.

ARTHUR H. BLAKE

Forests and Floods

[The flood problems in the Northwest last year have again brought up the question, What is the relation between ground cover on the watersheds and floods in the river systems draining them? That relation, as well as its importance, is indicated in the following abstract of part of the *Report of the Chief of the Forest Service, 1948*.]

A crew of Forest Service watershed specialists was dispatched to the Pacific Northwest in May 1948, before the flood in the Columbia River Basin had subsided, to make a survey of flood damage to national-forest property and to study the relation of watershed conditions to the flood runoff.

Immediate causes of the flood—which inundated Vanport, Oregon, parts of Portland, other cities, towns, industrial developments and farms, and which took more than 40 lives, made 60,000 persons homeless, and caused some $200,000,000 of property damage—were the extraordinary weather conditions prevailing over most of the basin. Abnormal accumulations of snow and a late spring, followed by prolonged rains and a sudden unseasonable hot spell that quickly melted most of the snow, sent high water streaming down from snow-covered highlands in all parts of the basin. The watershed techni-

cians found ample evidence, however, that damage in the upland valley areas would have been far less severe if millions of upland acres had not previously been depleted of their plant and forest cover, mainly by forest fires.

The investigators found striking evidence that forests slow the rate of snow melt and thus delay high water flows such as contributed to the floods. As late as June 14, about 15 days after the flood peak, timbered areas in the uplands were still blanketed with snow, while near-by burned-over sections were snowless. This was particularly apparent at higher elevations, where burned and denuded north and east slopes (which normally hold snow longest) had lost all their snow, while timbered south and west slopes were still snowbound.

Rough ground measurements on a number of small drainages showed peak discharges from severely burned or otherwise disturbed drainages averaging 50 per cent higher (some areas nearly 100 per cent) than those from unburned drainages of similar elevation and topography. Runoff from burned, logged, or overgrazed drainages also carried more debris, caused more channel and bank cutting, more sedimentation in lower streams, and damage to roads and bridges.

Forest fire has been the most important factor in denuding millions of watershed acres in the Columbia Basin. Other factors were logging, grazing, farming, mine or smelter operations, and road building, where done without apparent consideration for watershed values. The report of the investigating group demonstrates the urgent need for maintaining and improving fire protection, and the wisdom of large-scale forest planting and range reseeding operations in the basin highlands, not only for timber and forage production, but for reduction of floods as well.

Dams: An Astrophysicist's View

[Perhaps it is easier to become objective about things when one is following whatever pursuits an astrophysicist must follow on the summit of Mount Hamilton than it is when one is groundborne. Perhaps not. At any rate, Richard C. Sill, a young club member who is devoting some sixty-five hours per week at Lick Observatory to the study of astrophysics, found time to get down on paper some of his thoughts about conservation and dams. His letter to the editor, most of which appears below, was indeed a heartening one to receive, and the precursor of many more letters on the subjects of Calaveras and Butano than the editor, in his advancing cynicism, thought the members had in them (but see elsewhere in these pages).]

There are two problems before the world, problems before whose significance all other problems pale. Our existence and happiness, personally and as a species, depend more and more upon the sort of solutions we find for those problems. The two are those of war and conservation.

Witness! There is nothing to be gained if we solve the racial troubles, Negro versus white, white versus Oriental, white versus anything else, if the whole species dies of radioactive poisoning or a lethal dose of recessive mutations. There is nothing to be gained if labor and capital live peacefully together if the top soil graces the ocean floor or if the iron and forests are gone. What gain is there if a satisfactory solution to any social problem is found when our very existence hangs in the balance!

The significance of a satisfactory solution to every problem one can think of will be underscored by a success or totally negated by a failure in the attempt to solve these two basic problems.

It is not alone such thoughts which demonstrate the necessity of conservation. We need the by-products of conservation, we need the wilderness and the opportunities it gives to live as our bodies mean us to live. We need the opportunities to be alone and perhaps to place our lives

squarely in the skill and strength of our bodies and the judgment of our minds—as in mountaineering. We need to feel the lash of the cord and the thrill of discovery when a fish is hooked and fighting. We need to be so far from the cities and our fellowman that all we can hear is the wind in the pines or the pulse in our ears. We need to sleep in the darkness of the forests and sometimes have that sleep shattered by a broken twig near by—somewhere. And we need to see the stars without spectroscope and slide rule in hand.

These are necessities for our sanity. Although from the broader picture they are but concomitants of the greater problems of war and exploitation against existence, yet they are as important to us as existence and need no more justification or subordination to the "practical" than music or painting or friendship. Perhaps it is fortunate that conservation for existence, and peace – also for existence – provide the means and the opportunities for this approach to sanity. We can be thankful our success in peace and conservation will probably mean success in saving the wilderness. And it is not coincidence that this is so.

Until man grows, evolves away from his ancestry, the primitive conditions one meets in the wilderness will be as home to him. Until man is able to provide his needs from synthesis of the sand and air he must have what the wilderness provides.

We must practice conservation now for the future. Nothing can truly count as conservation which is of temporary value only. It is the purpose and the use of an idea which determines its value; not so much the idea itself. A dam to catch the silt before it clogs up a greater power-producing dam is of no value to conservation unless there is great effort put into changing the practices which cause the excessive burden of silt. Hence a dam can be an instrument of conservation or not, depending on its use with other things.

Even from the purely practical approach, dams are not always desirable. Too often they will make people say, "There, that's that," and then lose interest, whereupon the dams are multiplied immediately or eventually by failure of the people to follow up. The silt dam on the Colorado is going to serve a useful purpose for only a handful of years; it will not serve conservation without enormous work on the watersheds to stop overgrazing, to plant and protect trees, and to farm scientifically.

But there is a principle which is not obviously practical which is very important in the long run. Whenever new sources of power and water are needed, each proposed site should be considered with these questions in mind: Will the desired dam injure critical wilderness values if it is built here? Can its functions (if a flood-control dam) be better served by planting trees, better fire protection, cutting down on grazing in the watershed areas from which the runoff comes? Can the power and water be obtained farther downstream even at greater cost and difficulty? If the answer to any one of these questions seems to be yes, then the proponents of the offending site must prove that it is not; otherwise the site must be rejected in favor of an alternate solution to the problem which will work nearly as well immediately (and which will be better in the long run).

Let none who benefits from music or beauty in any form deny the claims for the wilderness. To live in a world where every decision was made on "practical" principles, with no or little weight given to the aesthetic and personal, would be as living in a prison. Our life takes on significance through the relationships we have with people and the nonobjective factors of beauty, love, and independence which enter it.

He who would destroy a Beethoven symphony, that mankind should know it no more, would be considered mad. Let those who would destroy a Hetch Hetchy or a Kings Canyon be similarly judged—unless it can be shown that there is no other way, at whatever cost, to achieve the same volume flow and kilowatt hours, and that these cubic feet of water and energy units *must* be obtained.

Conservation and the 81st Congress

With this issue of the *Bulletin* we tee off far behind the 81st Congress, which began its deliberations in January. Since then, 4,000 bills have been introduced, each of them important to someone, but only a few of them vitally affecting conservation.

Flood control.—Congressmen from nearly every state in the union have introduced bills to appropriate funds for flood-disaster victims in their respective states and for the building of dams to prevent future floods. Only because of the deluge of these bills are we moved to comment that building these dams is a treatment of effects and not causes.

Man cannot improve upon nature. A concrete dam is no substitute for forested slopes that meter each day's measure of water into the streams and rivers. Even at this late date, reforestation and good grazing practice in the highlands and farming that conforms to good soil-conservation principles in the fertile valleys will accomplish more erosion control, at less expense, than the most elaborate network of dams.

Olympic National Park.—Senator Harry P. Cain (Washington) and Representative Russell V. Mack (Washington) have introduced identical measures (Senate Concurrent Resolution 5 and House Concurrent Resolution 11) which call for a joint committee from the two houses to investigate and make a report on the boundaries of the Olympic National Park. The resolution is preceded by a series of *whereas* clauses which extol the need for and beauty of national parks and monuments in general and then cite the hardships imposed on the Olympic Peninsula communities by the inclusion of submarginal recreational lands within the park which could be better used by the Forest Service in its sustained-yield program.

The resolution itself directs this joint congressional committee to investigate the lands within the park to determine the extent to which lands unnecessary for park purposes can be transferred to the Forest Service.

N.P.S. land-purchase bill. (H.R. 1389, Mr. LeFevre, New York).—Provides that the Secretary of the Interior be authorized to purchase private lands within the boundaries of areas administered by the National Park Service that have been individually established by Act of Congress. The bill also names certain national monuments in which private lands may be acquired. (Jackson Hole National Monument is not listed.)

A total of $20,000,000 is authorized for acquisition of these private lands to become available at the rate of $1,250,000 per year.

Another section of the bill provides that in lieu of taxes, 25 per cent of park and monument receipts may be used to reimburse counties within whose boundaries park or monument lands lie. However, the total amount which a county may receive annually may not exceed 40 per cent of its revenue from all other sources. (Referred to the Committee on Public Lands, 1/13/49.)

A similar bill was introduced in the 80th Congress. It was reported favorably in the House but adjournment came before further action could be taken.

Roosevelt Memorial Redwood Forest (H.R. 796, Mrs. Douglas, Calif.).—Creates the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Redwood Forest within the counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, and Sonoma. (Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, 1/5/49.)

Payments in lieu of taxes on national-forest lands (H.R. 865, Mr. McDonough, Calif.).—Authorizes annual payments to states, territories, and insular governments for the benefit of their local political subdivisions, based on the fair value of the national-forest lands situated therein. (Referred to the Committee on Public Lands, 1/5/49.)

Bridge Canyon dam (S. 75, Senator McFarland, Arizona, and H.R. 934, Mr. Murdock, Arizona).—Authorizes the construction, operation, and maintenance of a dam and incidental works in the main stream of the Colorado River at Bridge Canyon, together with certain appurtenant dams and canals. (Referred to the Committee on Public Lands, 1/6/49.)

This dam, though outside the boundary of the Grand Canyon National Park will form a lake that will extend into the park.

Concession at Rainier National Park.—Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire on behalf of the United States Government all property and facilities of the Rainier National Park Company. (Referred to the Committee on Public Lands, 1/18/49.) J. R. B.

Forest Camping-fee Idea to Get Wider Test

The experiment of charging a fee at a selected few camp areas in national forests, as tried in California last year, will be tried in all regions of the country this summer. According to Regional Forester Perry A. Thompson, a letter from Washington headquarters has requested all regional foresters to put a representative group of camp, picnic, and winter-sports areas on a charge basis at the beginning of the 1949 vacation season. The new policy will be experimental; the proposed charges will be for the use of facilities and not for entrance to national forests. The Forest Service plans to maintain many small camp and picnic areas for free use.

This year's experiment will embrace ten heavily used camp and picnic areas out of a total of 1,100 on national forests in California. The ten include four which were tested last year—San Luis Rey camp, near Lake Henshaw; Crest-Road camp, near Lake Arrowhead; Pinecrest camp, at Strawberry Lake; and Eldorado County camp at Lake Tahoe, owned and operated by that county, within Eldorado National Forest boundaries. The other six will be announced after selection in the near future. No winter sports areas are included.

The schedule of charges authorized is:

Camping: 50c per day per car of up to 6 persons or $3 per week; additional persons 10c per day; minors under 12, free.

Picnicking: 25-50c per car of up to 6 persons; 5-10c for each extra person; no charge for minors under 12. Group picnic units may be handled at a flat rate to be set by the Regional Forester.

The decision to make these charges on certain recreational areas was prompted "by repeated suggestions from Congress that recreational use should bring in some revenue to offset in part the cost of constructing, maintaining and administering national forest recreational facilities."

Recreational use of the national forests is increasing steadily, many popular areas are regularly overcrowded, and the job of clean-up and maintenance has become a growing problem in many places. Funds available since the war for recreation work on national forests have been insufficient even to maintain essential sanitation and fire protection on all areas and to keep them usable, and there has been virtually no development of additional public recreational facilities to relieve overcrowding.

Most of the present recreational developments in national forests were constructed during the 1930's with Civilian Conservation Corps labor and funds. During the war, maintenance and development work in this field was largely suspended. Many of these facilities have deteriorated beyond repair, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep them in good, safe operating condition.

Under the experimental charge plan, some of the camp or picnic areas to be put on a charge basis will be managed by Forest Service personnel as at present while others will be put under management of permittees who will be responsible for their being operated in accord with usual Forest Service standards and will collect the fees. —*Forest Service release*

Sierra Club Membership

Following is a tabulation showing the growth of the Sierra Club membership during 1948:

CHAPTER	12/31/47	12/31/48	GAIN
S. F. Bay . .	3282	3468	186
So. Calif. . .	1778	1803	25
Loma Prieta . .	390	432	42
Mother Lode .	178	217	39
Riverside . .	75	90	15
San Diego . .	0	63	63
General . . .	290	292	2
	5993	6365	372

The total has continued to grow since this tabulation was made. On March 1, 1949, it had mounted to 6,622.

Southern California Wild Areas

San Jacinto

The Southern California Conservation Forum held a meeting at the Trailfinders on January 16. Several subjects were discussed. Two lines of action in regard to San Jacinto were suggested: (1) To request a public hearing when the Forest Service announces the ninety-day period. The proposed tramway crosses only a small area of the Forest Service Wild Area, but at a hearing the damage to the entire Wild Area can be shown as well as the fact that the State of California is violating the original understandings when the Forest Service turned the land over to the state. (2) To support a bill in the Legislature to be introduced by Assemblyman Vernon Kilpatrick to repeal or modify the Winter Park Authority Bill.

Prairie Fork

Awaiting action in the Regional Office of the Forest Service in San Francisco is a proposal to create a new Wild Area in the headwaters of the San Gabriel River. This is a rugged, forested area with many trout streams. It is valuable as watershed, a game refuge, and for recreation, being adjacent to the Los Angeles County parks at Crystal Lake and Big Pines. The area as now proposed is about 36,000 acres. Included is the summit of Mount San Antonio, 10,080 feet elevation, Pine Mountain, Mount Baden-Powell, and Mount Hawkins. The north side of Mount San Antonio is too steep for ski development and the boundaries exclude the north side of Blue Ridge, where there is a chair lift, and the north side of Mount Hawkins, which is proposed for ski development. It seems unlikely that a road would be built through the area since the road to Big Pines and the Angeles Crest Road are adequate and better located.

GLEN DAWSON

Sierra Winter Scenes

Presently exhibited in the San Francisco clubrooms are several watercolors and one oil painting by Stephen Bradley, of the skiing Bradleys, most of the paintings depicting snow scenes and skiing action in the vicinity of Tuolumne Meadows and Tioga Pass, where several of the Bradleys skied for six weeks in the winter of 1946-47. The exhibit is scheduled to continue until mid-April.

Crisis Spots Compiled

The Izaak Walton League announces that the first issue of *Crisis Spots in Conservation* has now been printed.

This booklet, according to William Voight, Jr., Executive Director of the League, "is an initial gesture toward providing conservationists with background material on the principal areas of concern in the United States. It was prepared in association with Arthur H. Carhart, of Denver, who is recognized as one of the nation's outstanding thinkers and writers in this field of activity. Whether we can follow this initial printing with additional looseleaf inserts, and with corrective sheets as current information proves inadequate, depends in part on how the

booklet is received. Our budget for this special purpose will not stretch beyond certain limited supplemental work.

"The foreword gives details on *why* the booklet was written and printed, and the concluding thoughts express our chagrin over its hasty preparation and inadequacy. The haste came about because of the demonstrated need for something in the way of a handy desk reference *now*. The inadequacy is partly the result of the haste, partly because the available fund wouldn't reach across more pages of type, and partly attributable to the fact that we lacked needed information on additional resource crisis spots. We hope that if this beginning is followed up, the major shortcomings can be overcome."

Copies may be ordered directly from the San Francisco office of the Sierra Club at the cost-plus-postage price of 25 cents each. [There are 26 printed looseleaf pages plus printed cover—all punched and ready to go into the 8½ x 11 binder in which you file your conservation correspondence. Recommended.—Ed.]

Twenty-five Letters

Selected Excerpts about Butano and Calaveras

[*In the San Francisco offices of the Sierra Club there are on file four full looseleaf binders containing copies of letters written by members in good support of the effort to rescue the Butano and Calaveras forests. We should like to print most of them—but a year's budget would be more than used up in the attempt. The selections which follow have been compiled by Director Charlotte E. Mauk.*]

Mary and Ted Abeel, Sacramento

There is no way we would rather have our tax money spent than in acquiring these areas as recreational places for our growing population.

W. A. Angwin, Monterey

The need for additional state park and recreational facilities in California is increasing with the increase in population. The increase in population came about because California is beautiful and has been blessed with an equable climate. We can destroy both beauty and climate, and eventually the population, by systematic destruction of our natural resources.

Marjorie E. Angelo, Arcata

Provision is necessary to take care of the huge crowds seeking beauty spots for a holiday. There are those who feel that the speed-hungry radio-blaring thousands do not need the beauty and peace of nature. If so, why do they continue to flock to the parks and beaches? I am convinced that in spite of their seeming callousness, they are greatly benefited from their visits to nature's beauty spots.

Jean B. Atkinson, South Laguna

Let us look into the future and plan for the future. It took 2,000 years to grow the redwoods. It took several hundred years to grow the great pines. To lumber them takes a few months. In 50 years the buildings built from them will be useless. Two thousand years of growth destroyed for maybe 50 years of use—and then what?

James H. Barbour, San Francisco

The old saying that "nothing is great or small except by comparison" is perhaps appreciated more by those of us who come from elsewhere than by native sons. We *can* compare, and believe me, we know that these forested areas are truly great and should be saved.

Mary L. Bowerman, Berkeley

Under natural conditions sugar pine reproduces itself fairly well (as in the Calaveras area), but in cutover areas its seedlings are rare. Even if lumbering companies should leave a seed tree, seedlings rarely survive where the forest is completely cut away as there is insufficient moisture and shade. Sugar pines will

therefore become less common in future unless our lumbering practices are improved.

Vivian Breckenfeld, Berkeley

As a writer for teen-agers my primary concern has always been with out-of-door values. In this era of artificial living I am convinced that no single thing can do more to enrich and steady the lives of our young people than firsthand intimacy with our wonderful California wilderness. To see a part of this wilderness deliberately hacked down when money is available to save it seems to me a crime, both against the state and against those who are growing up in it.

Save the trees *now* and argue about it *later*. Because if you argue now there will never again be such trees to save. Never is a mighty big word to have on your conscience.

Eleanor D. Breed, Berkeley

The great age and beauty of the trees, their uniqueness in California, their fame around the world, all make them a great treasure we have, fortunately, inherited. We have no more right to destroy such an inheritance from the past than today's Egyptians have to destroy the pyramids. They belong to the world, not to us.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul De Decker

We spend liberally for education, the arts, roads, and all the many requirements of advancing civilization, but we must not forget that the more intense civilization becomes the more need there will be for natural sanctuaries.

Louise Burke, Burlingame

State parks should be the gems of California's scenic splendors, not the dregs and rejects of commercial enterprise.

Sidney S. Bymel, San Francisco

For more than 25 years I have lived a few steps from Golden Gate Park. My eastern visitors marvel at the story of its creation on sand dunes. We San Franciscans show it off as an example of *man's* handiwork. We would not think of allowing the destruction of Golden Gate Park for any reason whatever. Why then should we be so gullible and short-sighted when it comes to protecting such *God*-made scenic and cultural treasures as Calaveras and Butano Forests?

Seville Chapman, Buffalo, New York

One hates to be mundane and to speak in terms of dollars where great works of art or of nature are concerned, for such things should be above price. Yet even on the dollar-sign basis, are not these forests worth more to the people of the state as forests than as lumber? With tensions of modern living, the contemplation *of relaxation among inspiring surroundings is what keeps us going for the other fifty weeks of the year. Again, one need not elaborate on the value of the tourist trade to California.*

Cicely Christy, Berkeley

Many times I have heard exasperated tourists grumble at the overcrowding in the forests which we advertise as our world-famous and unique attractions. More parks mean more dividends from tourists, far over the value of the timber, which can be used only once in our lifetime.

Ruth H. Dudley, Pacific Palisades

It would be a crime . . . to destroy these irreplaceable forests, and surely California would one day bitterly regret it . . . It would be as though we, very lazily one cold wet night, permitted some of our priceless antique furniture to be chopped up and tossed into the fireplace so that we might have a few hours of warmth, rather than bestir ourselves – as we eventually would have to, anyway–to go out and get the proper fuel.

Robert S. Hall, Santa Cruz

Why should we become a have-not state because of a short-sighted policy that places dollars above the general welfare? If necessary, I would gladly pay a higher price for lumber and preserve these won-

derful natural playgrounds. I want the Butano Grove to still be there when I have the time to enjoy it.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Handley, Tulelake

There are too few areas set aside now for public enjoyment—the existing areas are crowded and have taken on a dusty, trampled look, and something of the pure natural scene is lost. People go to the forests primarily for the purpose of escaping the hurried business of city living – the majority of them do not desire to see the mountains as crowded as the cities they left.

Cathrine and Richard Hargreaves, Oakland

"Economy" is a total loss when it deprives a great state of its great heritage.

Milton Hildebrand, Davis

With my parents, with the 10th Mountain Division, and now with my own family I have sought out the best of the natural scene wherever I have been—and I have seen 14 countries. In my experience no other state or country has so fine a forest of the type represented in the South Calaveras Grove.

I have made a financial contribution to the drive to save the giant trees, but I could not give enough. Others could not give enough. The only remaining way to save these famous big trees and sugar pines is for the state to purchase them, with funds that are now available, for a state park.

Lionel Mawby, San Francisco

We Californians, native and adopted, will next year be celebrating our state's One Hundredth Anniversary. In celebrating a personal anniversary we do not make the occasion the opportunity for destroying the stored-up possessions we prize the most. Why should we . . . Californians celebrate our Centennial by permitting the destruction of . . . outstanding examples of our state's forests?

Loren F. Miller, Redwood City

Have you ever taken your family for a week end to one of our state parks and upon arrival been told that all facilities were taken, that there wasn't room to park the car, that you could go somewhere else? Until last summer I would have sworn that it couldn't happen here. But it has happened here; this condition . . . will continue to get worse unless we increase our recreational areas faster than our population increases. We hear a great deal about our housing shortage, and we should also hear about our park shortage.

R. J. Moore, Oakland

The relaxation of a night or two spent in a sleeping bag in the open in clean, safe surroundings means a great deal to a lot of people. It's a chance to trade 40 hours of a work week for 48 hours of inexpensive, healthful recreation, or a two-day vacation every week. From the standpoint of employee morale, frequent outings of this informal type are unsurpassed.

Harry J. Raab, Oakland

Individual cities within the state, and the state itself, have spent sums far in excess of the amount asked for this grove to build museums housing dead exhibits of once living things that might have been preserved but for unthinking destruction. Here nature has presented our state with a natural museum filled with the few remaining living exhibits of the once great forests of the past.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Paige, Oakland

Increasing local, state and federal taxes . . . make private donations for public projects [more and more] hard to collect.

It is tragic that the provision for public funds to match private contributions should now prove an obstacle, rather than an aid, to the acquisition of much-needed forest areas. It would be much easier and infinitely more logical to discard the present unworkable plan than helplessly to hoard the unspendable unmatched funds

—and lose the priceless forests which these funds were originally intended to save. Public support through taxation has almost completely discredited the old concept of meeting public needs through the unreliable and undemocratic means of private philanthropy. The public should not have to beg privately for the public good which taxes should provide.

G. P. Putnam, Death Valley

There is not much use in spending the vast sums we do to bring people to California if we keep chipping away at the state's natural attractions.

Elliot Sawyer, Oakland

The recreational values of our wilderness have often been stressed, but invariably in vague terms that have the effectiveness of an actuarial study. I wish it were possible to describe with graphic effect the facts that no one travels our highways to view a devastated timberland, takes down his fishing tackle to drop a line in the muddy runoff from eroding mountains, or returns to his home in the East to advertise our state in terms of stumps and bare earth.

It would indeed be a sorry commentary on our contributions to the history of our state if some day Californians had to take their vacations in Idaho or the Canadian Rockies. The immediate dimes for the lumber industry just aren't worth the destruction of all the dollars that can exist in perpetuity.

Philip A. Munz, Director, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

Some twenty-two years ago Susanna Bixby Bryant, a native daughter of California, founded a Botanic Garden into which she poured millions of dollars in an effort to establish an institution for research on the plants of California and one where such plants could be grown and preserved for future generations not only for enjoyment but for scientific work. Even in the twenty-two years since the Garden was founded several species of California plants have passed out of existence in nature and are left now only in cultivation in such institutions, or no longer exist at all. Obviously as the population of California grows and the pressure for exploitation of natural resources increases, more and more protection of native species will be necessary. This can be achieved to some extent by Gardens but really effectively only by setting aside natural areas. These must be in many parts of the state and they must represent many different types of conditions. I have just completed a preliminary study of the various plant communities found in California and their diversity is tremendous. Moreover, these areas should be in their primitive condition in so far as possible, not changed by lumbering and agriculture.

California is one of the three or four geographic areas in the world that has contributed the largest number of ornamental plants for cultivation. Its number of species and their range in beauty and scientific interest are remarkable. In an area where such plants have grown undisturbed by man they have built conditions that are not obtainable elsewhere and that need scientific study and interpretation, a process which must go on for many years to come. If we do not in this generation set aside representative tracts that show California's vegetation as it once existed, we are not doing our duty to future generations.

Two such tracts are now under consideration by the people of the state, namely the South Calaveras Grove of Big Trees in the Sierra Nevada and the Butano Forest north of Santa Cruz. As a biologist with over thirty years of research experience in California, I urge that everything possible be done to rescue these tracts before they are lumbered and add them to the state park system. Not only are they important as possible additions to the recreational facilities of California, but such areas of virgin forest with their ecological and environmental complexes resulting from long periods of undisturbed growth, are of tremendous scientific significance. California has few such areas left.